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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Takashi Yamaguchi et al. Docket No.: 00-631
Serial No.: 09/691,435 Examiner : S. L. Ashburn
Filed : October 18, 2000 Art Unit : 3713
For : NUMBER DRAWINGS APPARATUS AND GAME MACHINE
THEREWITH

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and
1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents.

- (1) U.K. Patent No. 2 344 540 entitled A ROULETTE WHEEL
ASSEMBLY AND TABLE ARRANGEMENT, By Gordon McNally,
patented August 28, 1998. This patent discloses a
roulette wheel assembly and table arrangement which
includes a roulette wheel rotatably mounted in a wheel
bowl, and driven by an electric motor. Thirty seven
slot compartments are located around the wheel
circumference to receive a roulette ball. In
operation the wheel is rotated and the slot
compartment floor is lowered to allow a ball from the

previous game to be thrown outwardly and fall into a ball magazine. A firing breech is opened to allow a ball to enter a firing chamber. On the command, an air blower blows the ball into a firing tube which propels the ball tangentially onto the bowl in the opposite direction to the travel of the wheel. The ball travels across the bowl onto the wheel and finally lands in a compartment. Each player around the table has a betting station giving the betting choices that make up the game.

- (2) U.K. Patent No. 995,431 entitled AUTOMATIC ROULETTE WHEEL, By Henry J. Dolman, patented October 12, 1961. This patent discloses an installation for playing the game of Roulette, comprising a Roulette wheel or turntable automatically and intermittently rotatable and a Roulette Wheel control mechanism including means whereby betting combinations can be chosen and entered for play upon insertion of one or more coins or counters into a release device forming part of the control mechanism, and during a dwell period of turntable rotation or until a pre-arranged time before rotation of the turntable is arrested and a ball rolls off said turntable, the arrangement being such that said chosen betting combination is automatically entered into conditionable means and thereby

conditions subsequent operation of the conditionable means in the event of said ball arriving at said conditionable means.

- (3) U.K. Patent No. 211,283 entitled APPARATUS FOR USE IN PLAYING GAMES OF SKILL, By Lane et al., patented December 12, 1922. This patent discloses an apparatus for use in playing a game of skill, consisting of the combination of an inner central rotatable member having a concave upper surface, an outer stationary circular member having a series of holes or compartments adapted to receive a ball projected centrifugally from the central member when the latter is rotated and a hollow central shaft into which the ball to be projected is dropped, and from whence it passes out centrifugally on to the rotatable member integral with the shaft substantially as described.
- (4) International Publication No. WO 97/18870 entitled GAME OF CHANGE FOR CASINOS, By Constantin Roman, published May 29, 1997. This publication discloses a game of change that overcomes the disadvantages of roulette-type games. The game comprise a game table with three areas. The first area comprises a rotary member divided into 24 sectors by edges. A die with twelve identical contact surfaces each having a

regular pentagonal shape lands on said rotary member after being dropped through a funnel and hitting a spherical ball-shaped rotary portion rotating in the opposite direction to the rotary member. The second area is used for storing chips and the third area is divided into 24 sectors and used for holding chips when bets are placed.

- (5) International Publication No. WO 95/05877 entitled ROULETTE GAME WITH MULTIPLE BALLS, By Raoul Clotaire Chateau, published March 2, 1995. This publication discloses roulette with multiple balls, characterized in that the recesses which receive the balls are arranged around a ring which forms a track whose periphery is raised, the central portion of said ring being occupied by a rotating plate on which the balls are thrown. Each recess has a lead-in channel whose moveable bottom is flush with the upper face of the ring when a ball is in the corresponding recess.
- (6) Japanese Publication No. 362528. This document is in Japanese however an English translation of the independent claim is also attached.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on January 16, 2003

(Date of Deposit)
Rachel Piscitelli

Name and Reg. No. of Attorney
Rachel Piscitelli
Signature
January 16, 2003
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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